

# Mental Hospitals

SEE ACCOUNT  
OF  
PSYCHIATRIC AIDE  
TRAINING WORKSHOP  
ON PAGE 4

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## Professional Training Films Demonstrate Newest Therapies

Mental Hospital Service Film Library takes pleasure in announcing two new films which are now available to its members.

The films "*Seizure*"—a training film upon epilepsy—and "*Activity for Schizophrenia*"—showing therapy techniques—were made for the Veterans Administration.

"*Seizure*," a 16 mm print, with sound, which runs for 45 minutes, makes use of excellent black and white photography to delineate the common clinical manifestations and social implications of epileptic attacks, suffered by a 29-year-old veteran, Dan Glover.

Glover, whose epilepsy is of the idiopathic\* type, is first portrayed as a ten-year-old—played by an actual patient—who suffers attacks of petit mal. The grown-up Glover manifests his first attacks during sleep. As they grow worse, intruding upon his waking and working life, Glover, after going vainly from job to job and losing them all, comes to the VA Hospital for help.

Directed to professional groups, the film shows Glover undergoing exhaustive tests to establish the proper medication. A friend in the same ward, whose epilepsy is the result of a penetrating head wound suffered during World War II, gives the film makers the opportunity of showing some intricate brain surgery as the scar tissue is first located by means of the electroencephalograph and then excised.

Glover's doctor, finding him waiting outside the operating room, takes the opportunity of explaining that surgery, while successful in one type of epilepsy, is not necessarily indicated in others.

The film finishes with a discussion about employment problems, and for this reason might well be used also for public education purposes. The operating room scenes might prove over-dramatic for a lay audience, but for selected groups the film has its public as well as its professional education value.

"*Activities for Schizophrenia*," also a 16 mm in black and white, runs for 30 minutes, and a sound track as dramatic as the photography explains, for professional groups, the effectiveness of corrective therapy and rehabilitation activities within the framework of total psychotherapy, for a young man whose life problem of insecurity has

driven him to simple schizophrenia with catatonic tendencies.

The youth, Robert Scott, develops an attachment for a ward attendant, and gradually joins in increasingly complicated physical activities. Once he has again become accessible it is possible for the doctors to give him direct psychotherapy. "By recalling through simple games the happier memories of childhood, Robert is gradually drawn back into the world about him," is the burden of the explanation offered.

These films can be obtained on loan only by sending the enclosed order form and appropriate postage to The Psychological Cinema Register, The Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania. The postage is to cover special delivery and mailing costs—the films are loaned to you as part of the Mental Hospital Service. Please do not send vouchers for postage. Canadian hospitals should send the order form to the Canadian Film Institute, 172 Wellington St., Ottawa, Canada.

*\*Or unexplained and probably related to general conditions rather than specific etiologies.*

In the course of hospital visits by MHS Staff it has come to our attention that many people would like to receive a personal copy of MENTAL HOSPITALS.

It has therefore been decided that each hospital may receive a maximum of 15 copies instead of five or ten as at present, by request only.

For subscribing mental hospital staff members, a special subscription rate of \$2.50 a year has been established for the publication only. Staff members are already entitled to make use of the service under their hospital's membership. These individual subscriptions will run for one year (excluding July and August when MENTAL HOSPITALS is not published) from the date the subscription begins. Enclosed with this issue is a notice for your bulletin board in case you would like to have your staff members take advantage of this offer. Please advise MHS if you wish your hospital allocation increased.

## ILLINOIS THERAPISTS DRAMATIZE ACTIVITY SITUATIONS

AN IMPRESSIVE DRAMATIZATION of the work of occupational, recreational and industrial therapists has been presented at Illinois institutions. A group of workers from these departments in 12 different state hospitals devised, wrote and produced this stage show.

The presentation is in the form of short scenes, each depicting the actual experience of a worker with patients. As a unifying device, the therapists are shown in staff conferences over a period of months, and as each one rises to tell his story, the conference fades out and is replaced by the action scene described. The whole presentation is admirably directed and presented by the author Miss Georgine Theiss and her co-director, Miss Betty Nelson.

Mr. Fred K. Hoehler, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare, thought the result of sufficient interest and importance to be shown to staff at all Illinois institutions. At each hospital the superintendent is requested to make the curtain speech of "Dr. Dreamer," the superintendent of the fictional hospital in which the action takes place.

At Manton State Hospital the dramatization was shown to the delegates attending the Aide Training Workshop. Dr. Alfred P. Bay, Superintendent of Manton, took the part of Dr. Dreamer, who sums up the philosophy of the whole hospital.

"You must like them," says one worker. "They do get you after a while."

"Perhaps that's it," says Dr. Dreamer. "Perhaps it's really love."

The presentation ends with a dramatic tableau of the staff members turning towards the group of mental patients with whom they have been working.

The complete authenticity of the content, the careful presentation of interpersonal relationships between staff and patients, the sharp characterization of various types of therapists, and the emphasis on the importance of the patient as opposed to over-emphasis on the activity for its own sake—all these things greatly impressed an audience well aware that these "oldest activities" were the newest therapies. There was considerable sentiment that the production should be filmed so that it might reach an even wider hospital-public.

(23-4)

## Identification of Dentures in Mental Hospitals

By T. C. Richie, M.D., Medical Superintendent, and A. M. Palmer, L.D.S., D.D.S., of Provincial Mental Hospital, Ponoka, Alta., Canada

The loss and misplacement of dentures in a mental hospital is a persistent annoyance and inconvenience. In endeavouring to evolve a practical solution of this problem, certain factors had to be taken into consideration:

- The method of identification should be positive.
- It should be simple to inaugurate and maintain, requiring a minimum of time.
- It should not disfigure or mar the patient's denture or leave any irritating surface.
- It should be a method which can be used on either vulcanite or acrylic bases.
- It should be able to withstand reprocessing of the denture in the event of breakage.
- It should be sufficiently stable so that the patient cannot remove or otherwise destroy the identification.

The system evolved at this hospital seems to meet all these requirements. The initial time and work required to start the procedure has been more than compensated for in the saving of time and expense in replacing lost dentures.

This is how we solve the problem at Ponoka:

- A register is maintained by the dental department, both chronological and alphabetical.
- A specified area on the denture is selected for the application of the identification, such as the left distobuccal.
- We start with the numeral one and continue to ninety-nine. Then a combination of figures and letters is used—thus: A1, A2, etc.
- A fine bur is selected and the identification prepared.
- Amalgam is packed into the preparation and allowed to harden.
- The identification mark is polished.

Other combinations can be used by transposing numerals and letters—1A, 1B—or by using two letters—AA, BB, etc. If a third factor is added the range becomes practically unlimited.

After the identifications have been applied to any selected area of the denture, they may be repeated on the other three posterior surfaces, namely, right buccal, right lingual and left lingual.

However, as simplicity should be the keynote, we find sufficient combinations are available, using only two figures, two letters or variations thereof, to identify thousands of dentures.

## PATIENTS

### NEW ADMISSION ROUTINE IN IOWA

Under the new Iowa Screening Center Plan a new patient, committed or voluntary, is admitted directly to a five bed unit for twenty-four hours. Here he receives physical examination and psychiatric interviewing to determine which ward will receive him for initial treatment.

Thus instead of going into a general admission ward patients are sent more quickly to wards suitable to their particular need for intensive treatment.

## LOAN LIBRARY VOLUMES REVIEWED

Loan Library General List No. 3 opens with a unique collection of house organs published by mental hospitals and schools.

Newsletters for personnel, patients' publications and public information bulletins are among the one hundred-plus house organs received by M.H.S. in response to a recent request. These papers, published by all types of mental institutions, range from mimeographed single sheets to elaborate magazine types. Many feature multi-color illustrations, some hand-painted by patients, others achieved by using colored mimeograph ink in printing. The majority of publications received, particularly those written and printed by patients, are occupational therapy projects.

Sample copies of the various styles have been bound into manuals according to type, with an account of how each one is published and distributed. These volumes are on loan from M.H.S. Manual H.O. #1 contains publications for personnel and for public information; Manual H.O. #2, publications for patients (including those for both patients and personnel); Manual H.O. #3, publications issued by private hospitals; and Manual H.O. #4, those put out by schools for the mentally deficient.

The purpose of the personnel publications is typified by the motto of the Dixon (Ill.) State Hospital's weekly "Grapevine." The motto, "Don't hear it—Read it!" reminds its readers that an ounce of authorized information is worth a pound of gossip.

The patient publications are considered a morale factor as well as an informational and recreational activity. Many of these, like the "Elizabethan" published weekly at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D. C., are composed entirely of patients' contributions—stories, poems, news items and art work—regardless of literary or artistic merit. A Red Cross worker checks all copy for objectionable material, but no contributor's individual style is tampered with.

A third type of mental hospital publication is the public information periodical. The Polk (Pa.) State School issues a monthly "News-Letter" to the parents and guardians of its charges as a means of keeping them informed of the school's activities. The school has found that the "News-Letter" has been instrumental in increasing the number of cottage parties given by parents and also has cut down on individual letters of inquiry. The cost of printing and mailing the paper has, to some extent, been offset by the increased patronage of the school canteen for party supplies.

### Dept. of Agriculture Material Collected

To make members aware of information available free from the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., M.H.S. has collected three sets of material of interest to the dietary and housekeeping departments of schools and hospitals.

The first collection "Institutional Recipes" includes lunch recipes especially prepared for schools, as well as recipes using dried whole eggs and nonfat dried milk. The second, also for the dietary department, includes preparing, purchasing, and processing meats, vegetables, and miscellaneous foods. This folder contains 42 bulletins.

The third folder is for the housekeeping department and consists of ways of controlling household pests; stain removal; carpet and rug repair; sewing machine maintenance;

ABC's of mending, and how to make and fit work clothes for men and women.

A swatch book for use with dry goods specifications, as used by the State of Illinois, is also available on loan to our members. The book compiled by the State's Division of Home Economics and Nutrition, includes samples of approved materials for sheeting, towelling, clothing, draperies and other purposes. Your purchasing agent or housekeeping department will find valuable information in this book.

### Topeka Manuals in Arrears

The procedure books from Topeka are in such demand that we cannot yet fill all requests in our files, so please do not ask for them until further notice. Meanwhile it would be appreciated if those borrowing the books would be good enough to return them promptly within the two weeks period. In order to catch up on old requests, we are for the time being sending out two books only at a time, instead of the complete set of four.

A Canadian contribution to the library is a Report on Recreation & Physical Education in Mental Institutions prepared by the Physical Fitness Division of the Dept. of National Health and Welfare. As well as information about Canadian Hospital programs, the report includes information from the British Commonwealth and the United States upon programs now in operation, the administrative organization, finance and personnel, including recruitment, training, duties and salaries.

### LOAN LIBRARY LIST NO. 3 House Organs

- Mental Hospital Publications for Personnel and Public Information.* Postage 12c U. S., 24c Canada.
- Mental Hospital Publications for Patients and Personnel.* Postage 20c U. S., 48c Canada.
- Private Psychiatric Hospital Publications.* Postage 12c U. S., 24c Canada.
- Publications by Schools for the Mentally Defective.* Postage 8c U. S., 12c Canada.
- Illinois Dept. of Public Welfare, Swatch Book.* Postage 38c U. S., 72c Canada.
- Organizational Charts.* Postage 8c U. S., 12c Canada. (one copy only)
- U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Institutional Recipes.* Postage 16c U. S., 36c Canada.
- Purchasing, Processing, Preservation and Preparation of Meats, Vegetables and Miscellaneous Foods.* Postage 20c U. S., 48c Canada.
- Sewing and Mending and Insect Control.* Postage 12c U. S., 24c Canada.
- Manteno State Hospital (Ill.), Clinical Training Ward Teaching Program.* Postage 8c U. S., 12c Canada.
- Dept. of National Health & Welfare, Report On Recreation and Physical Education in Mental Institutions.* Postage 8c U. S., 12c Canada.

### CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE TO DISTRIBUTE MHS FILMS

Beginning February 1, 1952, the Canadian members of the A.P.A. Mental Hospital Service should order M.H.S. films directly from the Canadian Film Institute, 172 Wellington St., Ottawa, Canada, which is now acting as a Mental Hospital Service film distributing agency.

Canadian hospitals should send their requests for A.P.A. Mental Service films directly to the Canadian Film Institute on the order forms provided with this issue of MENTAL HOSPITALS.

## TEXAS 'PSYCHIATRIC BULLETIN' DESIRABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION

The Council of the A.P.A., at the request of the A.P.A. Committee on Public Education and Relations, has authorized the Medical Director to inform mental health authorities and other agencies of the availability of *The Psychiatric Bulletin* as a desirable source of psychiatric information for physicians in general practice. Mental health grant funds may be requested and utilized for the purchase and distribution of this publication.

Sponsored by the Texas State Department of Health, *The Psychiatric Bulletin* is published quarterly by the Medical Arts Publishing Foundation (University of Texas) in Houston. The advisory editorial board includes Drs. K. E. Appel, G. W. Cox, C. S. Drayer, R. H. Felix, W. M. Gambrell, F. J. Gerty, J. P. Lambert, W. C. Menninger, R. L. Sutherland, S. D. Vestermark, O. T. Woods, and D. G. Wright. Subscriptions are \$3.00 yearly (address: 1603 Oakdale Street, Houston, Texas.)

**MENTAL HOSPITALS**, a monthly publication, is directed to the staff members of mental hospitals, schools and related institutions who are subscribers to the American Psychiatric Association Mental Hospital Service, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Further details about any item will be supplied on request to staff members of subscribing hospitals. A postcard giving the reference number of the item is sufficient.

Readers are urged to contribute details of ideas successfully developed in their own hospitals for inclusion.

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**M.H.S. Regional Representatives:** Selected to represent different types of mental hospitals, institutions, and governmental services in all States and Canadian provinces. List available on request.

## Regional Conferences To Foster Fundamental Research

The A.P.A. regional research conferences were established by action of Council a year ago. Their primary purpose is to put the strength of the Association behind the development of research in the field of psychiatry.

With the great upsurge of work in our field, the vast expansion of treatment facilities of every form, the exceptionally rapid establishment of training centers at all the major universities and hospitals across the continent, spreading now into those other parts of the hemisphere which the Association now serves, there has come a recognition that we are already reaching the limit of the application of what is already known.

The storehouse of knowledge filled by the basic studies of Kraepelin, the astonishingly acute observations of Bleuler, the dynamic concepts of Freud and Meyer, and the practical therapies of Wagner von Juaregg, Sakel, Meduna, Moniz and many others, was for long used in only limited degree and by a few centers.

But now the basic discoveries of these men are in extensive use. Moreover, the applied researchers have worked out great series of variations on these primary concepts, and of these the most effective are also in daily employment. One may point to the great range of techniques and of operations by which the concept of convulsive therapy is now applied, the rapid translation into a series of alternative operations of Moniz' original idea, the variants upon Freud's psychodynamic concepts, and the numerous uses of insulin as a means of modifying behavior.

As an inevitable result of this tremendous activity in applied research, which was given special impetus by World War II, we are now scraping the bottom of our barrel of basic ideas. If the applied researcher, the experimental therapist, is to keep up his tempo of expansion, he must have a further supply of new basic concepts with which he can work and ultimately translate into new techniques and methods of prevention.

Hence the current urgency to foster fundamental research in our field. In this, the Regional Research Conferences are designed to play an important part. They offer a forum where research workers can meet and discuss, in the course of an uncrowded and unburied conference, frontier ideas in research. Many of the presentations deal with current research and with research design, rather than with completed work.

It was not anticipated that these research conferences would draw papers away from the scientific program of the Annual Meeting of the APA, and experience already has shown that they have not. Still further experience is likely to show that, to the extent that they are successful in promoting fundamental research, they will actually increase the number of papers submitted for presentation at the annual meetings.

The following are the principles upon which the conferences are currently operating:

1. The Regional Research Conference is devoted to the presentation and discussion of research carried out by members of the

Association, or by others outside the membership who may have a special contribution to make.

Areas wishing to hold a conference should communicate with the office of Dr. Daniel Blain, Medical Director of the APA.

2. The purpose of these Regional Research Conferences is to increase recognition of the importance of scientific methods by psychiatrists in their own field; to increase the number of investigators in the field of psychiatry; to improve the level of investigative work being accomplished at this particular time. It is the plan of the American Psychiatric Association to sponsor periodic regional conferences devoted to the presentation and discussion of research carried out by the membership or others outside the membership who have a special contribution to make.

3. These conferences are organized under the direct or indirect aegis of university departments of psychiatry assisted by a group representing the American Psychiatric Association through its Committee on Research.

The first Regional Conference was held last year under the auspices of the University of Colorado.

This year, applications have been received from some six centers. Ultimately it is hoped that a sufficient number of these Regional Research Conferences will be established, so that one will be held every year in each major center.

D. EWEN CAMERON, M.D.  
*President-Elect, A.P.A.*

## HOSPITALS SUBSCRIBE TO APA MENTAL HOSPITAL SERVICE

The following hospitals bring the total number of A.P.A. Mental Hospital Service subscribers to 359:

The Woodlands School, New Westminster, B. C., Canada; Dept. of Health, Regina, Sask., Canada; Grafton State Hospital, Grafton, Mass.; Norfolk State Hospital, Norfolk, Neb.; Youngstown Receiving Hospital, Youngstown, Ohio; Mansfield Training School, Mansfield, Conn.; St. Louis State Training School, St. Louis, Mo.; Paul's Valley State Hospital, Paul's Valley, Okla.; Martha Lloyd School, Troy, Pa.; U. S. Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.; Milwaukee County Asylum, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Livermore Sanitarium, Livermore, Calif.; The Seton Institute, Baltimore, Md.; Austin Riggs Foundation, Stockbridge, Mass.; Christian Sanatorium, Wyckoff, N. J.; Tenacre Foundation, Princeton, N. J.; Beacon Hill Sanatorium, Beacon Hill, N. Y.; Morningside Hospital, Portland, Ore.; American Hospital Association, Chicago, Ill.

The Norton Psychiatric Clinic and the Strong Memorial Hospital were incorrectly listed as psychopathic hospitals. They both should be listed as General Hospitals.



## WASTE PREVENTION INCREASES EQUIPMENT FUNDS

Arkansas State Hospital, through careful study of housekeeping practices, has effected a monthly savings of almost \$775.00

by A. C. Yopp, Business Manager

Arkansas State Hospital, Little Rock, Arkansas

STATE mental hospitals are facing an ever-increasing problem of stretching the hospital dollar in order to maintain necessary services to the patient and the community during the present inflationary period. Economy, however, must be exercised without reducing the standard of patient care. We know that it is almost impossible to maintain this standard if we attempt to reduce expenditures through the reduction of personnel and salaries, since most of us are already operating with a bare minimum of personnel and with salaries far below those paid by industry and other competing agencies.

Therefore, we must, of necessity, seek out ways to reduce expenditures through eliminating waste of consumable supplies sufficiently to meet their increased costs. By emphasizing the elimination of waste in our hospital, we have obtained results which far exceeded our expectations.

During the latter part of 1950 we began to study individual items. By recapitulating all supplies used by each unit over a period of time, it became obvious that no standardization of supplies and quantities had ever been established. We decided that our supervisors were the key people to help solve the problem. For example, one supervisory unit had used \$116.00 worth of wax during the period studied, while another unit of equal size had only used \$16.00 worth. The amazing thing was that the unit using the least amount had cleaner and better kept floors than the other! We discovered that this was because the excess wax applied by the extravagant unit would roll up, crack, and collect dirt which had to be removed at more frequent intervals. Furthermore, the people using excess wax were having to do a great deal of unnecessary work.

### Teamwork on Economy

Armed with recapitulation sheets, we called meetings with the Director of Nurses, department heads, and all supervisors to discuss plans for economy. During these discussions we gained further knowledge of the use of these supplies and their relationship to the hospital function. By comparing quantities and costs of each unit, everyone became concerned about the cost of his unit and anxious to do something about it. These employees realized that they had a vital part to play in administering hospital affairs and that in order to cope with the problems intelligently, teamwork was essential.

Since these people are willing to assume responsibility, we keep them informed as to the expenditures of their units. We already had the machinery set up, but it had never been utilized. We had central purchasing, central supply, and I.B.M. accounting. We merely had to direct I.B.M. Accounting Department to print, for each department head and supervisor, a copy of each monthly supply report. This report lists all departments and units along with a column of figures for the cost of food, supplies, drugs, clothing, linens, maintenance, repairs, and total cost. With this report each supervisor can easily compare his cost with other units or his monthly cost with that of preceding months. This report has played a major role in making our personnel economy conscious.

By assuring personnel that any funds thus saved would be used to purchase badly needed equipment for their work, we created another incentive. As a result, we have been able to purchase a number of vacuum cleaners, polishing machines, wheel chairs; some x-ray equipment, an electroencephalograph machine, a station wagon, and many other items of lesser value.

To maintain a stable economy it is essential to continue the training of personnel and to continually check supply rooms on

the wards, kitchens, and other units in order to discourage hoarding of items which deteriorate with age. Too, we cannot expect all personnel to adhere completely to definite procedures. Occasionally we still find a perfectly good mop head at the incinerator because someone preferred getting a new mop to cleaning and using the one he had.

We must constantly sell to all personnel the idea that money spent for wasted materials must, of necessity, reduce the amounts available for other services. This selling job is a daily one; people become careless if not constantly reminded.

### Organized Budget Important

Another integral part of an economy program is a well-organized budget. We initiated one on a daily basis. It is not perfect, but it makes the job of saying "No" much easier for the Business Manager. However, in setting up a daily budget, a reserve should be maintained to cover unexpected emergencies.

While we have not eliminated all waste, we are on the right road toward efficient administration of available funds. Food waste has been reduced to 3.4 ounces per capita per day, although this is still not sufficient to offset the increased prices of foodstuffs. On a few other items we have experienced similar results.

Appreciable savings, however, have been effected on many items, such as cleansers, wax, detergents, disinfectants, soaps, washing powders, mops, brooms, and brushes. Comparative figures for 1950 and 1951 through November, illustrate these results:

Jan. 1, 1950 thru Dec. 31, 1950 ..	\$53,050.32
Jan. 1, 1951, thru Nov. 30, 1951 ..	40,109.68
Avg. monthly expenditure, 1950 ..	\$4,420.86
Avg. monthly expenditure, 1951 ..	3,646.34

Savings monthly 1951 over 1950 \$ 774.52

This savings was realized in spite of increased prices and the addition of a 128-bed N.P. Tuberculosis Unit which was placed in service in March, 1951, and a 466-bed Ward and Infirmary building in October, 1951. We have no way of computing just what the saving would have been had prices and physical facilities remained the same.

The time and effort involved in our waste-prevention program are, as indicated by the figures above, well repaid in the extra funds made available to purchase more and better equipment. These, of course, mean improved working conditions for personnel and better care and treatment for patients.

(1-26)

## Aide Training Workshop Establishes Working Areas

THE second workshop on aide training was held at the State Hospital at Manteno, Ill., from the 11th to 13th of January, inclusive. Interim committees were appointed to study special aspects of what Dr. Leo H. Bartemeier, Moderator and President of the A.P.A., called one of the most important fields in modern psychiatric practice.

The group decided that since there were 80,000 aides in mental hospitals of necessity carrying out bed-side care of patients, it was necessary to adopt a long-range training program for these people, without any "make-shift" implications.

Dr. Walter Baer, Deputy Director, Mental Health Service of the Illinois Department of Welfare, said that the disciplines which had up to now been responsible for the inadequacy of the training, status, salaries and security of these attendants were represented in the group. Miss Adelaide A. Hughes, R.N., Chief of Nursing Services, VA Hospital, Lyons, N. J., declared that the group had come together in response to public demand for better care of the mental patient.

Delegates included, among others, Dr. Alfred P. Bay, the host and superintendent of Manteno State Hospital; Dr. Juul C. Nielsen, A.P.A. Delegate, Medical Director, Indiana Council of Mental Health; Dr. George S. Stevenson, Medical Director, National Association of Mental Health; Miss Esther A. Garrison, R.N., Training and Standards Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health; Miss Hildegard E. Peplau, R.N., National League of Nursing Education representative and Mrs. Margaret F. Carroll, R.N., American Nurses Association representative, some 24 others, representing a number of operating programs and interested agencies. Psychiatric aides taking part in the Workshop were Miss Martha Gibson, supervisor of Psychiatric Aides at Manteno State Hospital, Miss Bessie Bumgarner, a graduate of the Manteno training program and Miss Vivienne Hutchins from the Menninger School for Psychiatric Aides.

The first day was devoted to exploring the subject and endeavoring to define the objectives of this Workshop; on the second day the interim working committees were formed and there was further discussion of the areas in which each one should operate. On the third and last day, chairmen of the committees gave reports upon items they intended to explore within their area.

These committees, with their chairmen, were as follows: (1) Recruitment and (2) Selection, Dr. Juul C. Nielsen; (3) Teaching Content, Miss Mary Gangemi, R.N.; (4) Teaching Methods, Dr. Murray A. Diamond; (5) Utilization of the Aide, Dr. Lucy Ozarin; (6) Practical Problems, Mr. Roy C. Simon; (7) Fact Gathering and Historical Material, Miss Elsie Ogilvie.

Reports are to be completed and sent to Mr. Paul Harris, whose office, nominated as the clearing house for the group, will reproduce and distribute these reports.

It was suggested arranging another Workshop immediately preceding the Mental Hospital Institute, or to request MHI to give one entire day to the consideration of this problem. The workshop group would contribute to the discussions at the Institute.

## LEGISLATORS' INTERIM VISITS AID MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

by S. O. Johnson, M. D.  
Superintendent, Lakin State Hospital  
Lakin, West Virginia

AN INNOVATION which is proving invaluable to West Virginia state hospitals is the establishment of regular visits by a legislative committee during the periods when the assembly is not in session.

Visits to the hospitals by legislative groups are not a new procedure in this state, but formerly they were made during the latter part of the busy sixty-day sessions. Although certain appraisals and helpful observations were made, they were usually too late to be included in the current budget bill. The requests from hospital superintendents were submitted by our Board of Control to the Board of Public Works, which presents all budgets to the Assembly, prior to the beginning of the session. By the time the visits were made, the budget would have already been prepared.

The new procedure permits ample time for study, planning, and a more effective presentation of the needs of the hospitals. An important additional advantage is having the full support in the Assembly of the visiting legislators. They render valuable assistance as a direct liaison between the Assembly and the hospitals when our budget requests, including suggestions and recommendations made by them, come before the legislature.

The visiting committee, composed of three members of the Assembly's Humane Committee, is accompanied on its hospital tours by the president and the chief engineer of the State Board of Control, the Budget Director or his designate, and a member of the press. A full day is spent at each hospital, inspecting all wards, sections, clinics, and maintenance operations. The chief engineer is able to estimate physical plant needs.

After they have inspected the premises, the group holds informal conferences with the Superintendent and his staff, key section chiefs, individual employees, patients, or anyone who desires to talk with them. They review the situation of the hospital as it is, noting improvements that have taken place since their previous visit, and make constructive criticism. They also offer suggestions as to how we might best emphasize features of our operation and outstanding needs in order to facilitate the thinking of the legislature when our budget requests are considered.

The benefits of these visits were first reflected in the 1949 Assembly when the legislature approved the entire budget for operations as requested by the mental hospitals of the state. This unprecedented appropriation made possible a much-needed building program, including first-class homes for employees, increased ward space, and medical treatment centers with modern clinical facilities for both inpatients and outpatients. Of particular significance was the sharp increase in the allocation for personal services—probably for the first time this allocation was 50% or more of the total operations cost. This permitted salary increases and made possible new staff positions and the securing of higher caliber personnel. These are vital if we are to develop treatment programs which will expedite the rehabilitation of our patients.

The gains already made are valuable and significant, and we feel that they will be maintained because they stem from the right roots—the community itself. Much of

this interest results from more effective direct contact between the hospitals and the community. Our hospitals welcome visitors. All sections, at all times, are open to them—they can make their own appraisals of what the hospitals are and what is being accomplished in them. They are thus encouraged to take an active part in supporting mental health programs.

Interest of this nature, manifested at both levels, legislative and constituent, have indeed been a blessing to the institutions of our state. We see in it the dawn of a new day for the mental health program in West Virginia.

(2-17)

## NEW "PSYCHIATRIC AIDE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS" OFFERED

The National Association for Mental Health has announced that all entries for the 1951 Psychiatric Aide Achievement Awards must be postmarked no later than February 29, 1952. All qualified candidates will be acclaimed during Mental Health Week 1952 (May 4-10), when equivalent awards will be made to each.

Eligible for nomination are psychiatric aides employed in mental hospitals in the United States whose activities are centered in direct relationship with mentally ill patients at the ward level. Only one candidate may be entered from each hospital, and nomination procedures must adhere to the rules governing the awards.

The awards will be made on the basis of unusually outstanding services to patients during the past year, with consideration given to personal qualities that contribute to job performance.

Further details and entry blanks may be obtained by writing to the Psychiatric Aide Achievement Awards, 1790 Broadway—Room 912, New York 19, N. Y.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Sir,

We are startled and perplexed by the possible implication to be discerned in "Letter to the Editor," page 2, Vol. 2, No. 10 issue of December 1951.

It has not been observed by us, either in 1908, 1951 or the years between that male attendants have a worse record for brutality and poor nursing than have women attendants. At no time would our service have been improved merely by the substitution of women for men.

The personal attributes that contribute to proper performance of nursing functions are human attributes, possessed by both sexes. We have men attendants just as gentle, clean, decent and efficient as the women attendants.

An inadequate attendant should be replaced by a better one; but the situation is not necessarily improved by replacing an unsatisfactory man by a woman. The same holds good in personnel of the professional category. We have both men and women working as registered nurses. Quite a few men working as attendants, psychiatric aides, or professional nurses are doing excellent work both in general and mental hospitals at present. When promotion is merited, they should have equal oppor-

## STATE HOSPITAL ARRANGES INTRAMURAL AWARD SCHEME

FROM LOGANSPOUT (IND.) STATE HOSPITAL comes the news, via their house organ, that they are asking each department to conduct its own achievement award contest. The best, in the opinion of an administrative committee, will be submitted as their hospital entry in the Achievement Award Contest sponsored by APA Mental Hospital Service. It will be recalled that last year Logansport was awarded second place for their transition from a custodial hospital to a treatment hospital.

The deadline for applications in the APA MHS Achievement Award Contest is March 15. Rules of the contest were enclosed in the December issue of MENTAL HOSPITALS. One entry only from each hospital is to be submitted this year. The Award consists of an honorarium and a certificate. Honorable mentions are awarded a certificate only and winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the APA in May. Awards will be presented at the annual APA Mental Hospital Institute.

## FOURTH INSTITUTE ON MENTAL DEFICIENCY HELD IN MINNESOTA

THE MINNESOTA DIVISION of public institutions, in cooperation with University of Minnesota, held its fourth annual institute on mental deficiency. The three-day meeting was designed primarily to give county social workers a better understanding of mental deficiency in order to provide more adequate assistance to the mentally deficient and their families.

For the first time certain sessions were open to parents, teachers, probate judges, public health nurses, and others with a direct interest in the problem. The general sessions included discussions on the role of parents' groups in a state program; how Minnesota plans and cares for its mentally deficient; and on the problems of the child in the home.

Sessions restricted to county social workers took up the methods of planning for the return of the patient from the hospital to the community, and how the state institutions and county welfare boards can work together most effectively.

tunity with women to rise to "charge positions."

We regret the apparent implication of the letter, since we and our patients appreciate the excellent service rendered by many of our men. The superiority of women is, perhaps, a legend, a sentiment. Our observations point to equality both in virtue and ability between the sexes.

Yours, etc.

JANET FENIMORE KORNGOLD, R.N.

Director, Nursing Service,  
Yankton State Hospital, S. Dakota.

*Women of the better type have frequently been more available than men for the position of attendant—possibly the result of economic factors. But we wonder whether perhaps there are any records of men looking after women more successfully, just as Dr. Zeller suggested the greater success of women attendants with men patients. Perhaps the theories of opposite sexes caring for one another are valid. We should be interested to hear if any of our members have experience of this opposite situation. Ed.*



## TOLEDO STATE HOSPITAL BENEFITS FROM WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

*In playing year-round Santa Claus to the patients, the Auxiliary has brought to the community a better understanding of the hospital's functions and of mental illness.*

EVERY city has its women's clubs, and in this Toledo, Ohio, is not exceptional. What is exceptional there is the amazing growth of an organization dedicated to the welfare of the patients at Toledo State Hospital. The enthusiasm and perseverance of Toledo clubwomen have made it the city's fastest growing organization—in less than two years membership has skyrocketed from thirteen to over six hundred.

The idea was born during a telephone conversation in February, 1950. Lenore Morrison, a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, asked a friend: "Why hasn't an auxiliary been formed for Toledo State Hospital?" It was the only medical institution in the city that had no such organization.

The friend did not know the answer, but thought the idea an admirable one. Together the two women approached the hospital superintendent and got his approval to start the ball rolling.

Eleven active clubwomen were contacted by telephone. They agreed to help lay the groundwork for the new auxiliary, and in March, 1950, the first meeting was held. Honorary officers were elected to facilitate operations. A staff member of the hospital was appointed to serve as consultant advisor, coordinator and historian.

### Membership Drive

The following month, April, women of the community were invited to a membership tea. Each board member also invited twenty-five of her acquaintances. The meeting was held in the evening so that working women could have an opportunity to join the group.

A general outline of the auxiliary's objectives was given, and dues were set at one dollar per year.

May's activities included a rally of interested women from various other counties served by Toledo State Hospital. Nineteen representatives from nine counties attended this tea. They promised to contact persons in their communities for the purpose of forming affiliate societies. Several of these county branches are now in operation.

### Initial Project

In June the first fund-raising event was held—a bridge party at the Toledo Women's Club. Four hundred women attended, making the affair a social and financial success.

Although the Auxiliary did not meet during the summer months, its roster continued to swell. News of the organization and its activities was spreading, and the president was busy filling numerous speaking engagements in and out of the city.

September's first meeting began with a flurry of activity. Plans were made to sponsor a Patron's Dance in October.

For this event patron's tickets were sold at five and ten dollars, and general admission was \$1.20. Business firms were contacted as possible patrons.

Even though older and more recognized groups were clamoring for public support at this time, the people of Toledo were quick to appreciate the worth of the project and of its beneficiary, the hospital. Over thirteen hundred dollars profit resulted.

Further plans were in progress for winter activities. Monthly square dances were held, not as a source of revenue, but to gain community interest and participation in hospital

activities. The patients danced during the earlier part of the evening and the public was admitted later. Admission was set at a minimum of fifty cents and soft drinks were sold.

### Anniversary Celebrated

Last February, the society celebrated its first birthday with a tea in the lounge of the Nurses' Home. Dr. Joseph E. Duty, the hospital's superintendent, was present to light the candle and cut the cake. In contrast to the small band of Toledo clubwomen whose perseverance had brought it into being, the Auxiliary now boasted over six hundred active workers and thirty board members.

A lasting reminder of the group's services is the modern barber shop at the hospital, which was dedicated last May. The shop was installed and equipped through Auxiliary funds.

Toledo State Hospital's energetic Women's Auxiliary is looking forward to continued success. Its aims are not only financial but educational—to acquaint their fellow citizens with the work being done at the hospital, thus bringing about a better understanding of mental illness.

## RESEARCH

### REHABILITATION STUDY TO START AT BOSTON S. H.

BOSTON (MASS.) STATE HOSPITAL has received a \$61,495 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a two-year pilot study in rehabilitation and rehabilitation personnel. The study follows the recommendations of the National Advisory Mental Health Council and the Committee on Medical Rehabilitation of the American Psychiatric Association.

The study will deal with the problems of patients returning to the community, and how they can be prepared, while still hospitalized, to cope with these problems. The contribution that persons trained in vocational guidance, recreation, physical education, and allied fields, can make to the recovery of patients will also be evaluated. (14-27)

## EQUIPMENT

### LAUNDRY CART MADE BY HOSPITAL'S TINSMITH SHOP

THE LOADING TRUCKS used by the Linen Room at Greystone Park (N.J.) State Hospital are built to specification in the hospital's Tinsmith Shop. The carts, made of stainless steel, are 36 inches high. The two shelves are 68 inches long, 26 inches wide, with the edges turned under the frame so that linens can be quickly slid on and off without danger of tearing.

The hospital's engineer-in-charge says that the cost of each cart comes to approximately \$140, using maintenance labor. A sketched diagram of the laundry cart, with specifications, is available from M.H.S. (20-20)

## PERSONNEL

### ILLINOIS INSTITUTIONS ADOPT UNIFORM PERFORMANCE RATINGS

ALL EMPLOYEES of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare are being rated semi-annually on standardized sheets. The single-form system was devised by the Department's Personnel Council which held a series of training conferences to indoctrinate supervisors in its use.

The Performance Rating is designed to evaluate work attitudes and accomplishments. At the end of each six-month period, the employee is scored on his job performance for that period. The supervisor discusses the rating with him, and offers corrective criticism and encouragement.

A pilot run of the form was conducted at Manteno State Hospital in January, 1951, six months before the system was utilized on a state-wide basis. Many suggestions for improving the form resulted which were incorporated into the rating sheet which was sent out to all state institutions.

A second survey was conducted at Manteno after the July rating. The views of both supervisory and non-supervisory personnel in key departments were solicited.

The hospital reports that, despite efforts to make it clear that the rating program is intended primarily as a means of recognizing outstanding achievement, many senior employees expressed resentment of the critical aspects. One supervisor felt that some allowance should be made for employees with many years of conscientious service. Another staff member suggested that if the evaluation were mutual, i.e., if the employees were permitted to comment upon the supervisor's work attitudes and relationships, this would "go a long way toward convincing the employees as a whole that the over-all program is a constructive one, and not a mere tool for punishing or rewarding the workers."

On the brighter side, one woman reported: "Too often we work along in the dark with no chance of knowing whether we are doing a good job or not.... Now we have an opportunity to learn what our shortcomings are and... a pat on the back when we deserve it. Knowing that I am being rated gives me an incentive to put forth more effort." Another, a supervisor in the dietary department, has already noted an improvement in some employees' work and feels that it is a direct result of these analyses.

The general consensus was that if semi-annual interviews between supervisors and employers serve to promote a closer working relationship and a clearer, more honest approach to duties, the rating program is worthwhile for that alone. (9-35)

### LACK OF STAFF INHIBITS PROGRESS SAYS N.A.M.H.

A REPORT from the National Association of Mental Health states that shortage of personnel is threatening to cancel out many recent gains in meeting mental health needs.

According to the Association's first annual report, "mental illness continues to be our nation's No. 1 health problem. In many states, the substantial gains made in the quality of care and treatment facilities for the mentally ill since 1941 have been threatened. In some instances, these gains have

been wiped out by the draining off of personnel into industry and related defense activities."

The report stated that there were not enough mental health clinics to serve even a fraction of those who needed them, and the funds being spent on mental illness were pitifully inadequate. Additional effort and larger sums of money were needed during the coming year to consolidate gains already made, and to continue progress in the field of mental illness. (9-34)

## TRAINING

### SPECIAL WARD FOR PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

MANTENO STATE HOSPITAL has established a pre-service clinical training course for the new attendant which complements but does not supplant the formal classroom work required of new attendants.

For clinical training purposes a ward has been set up which includes patients manifesting various types of behavior. There are, in addition, two small classrooms in the same building used for class room work and discussions.

Before a new employee is scheduled for actual ward duty, she is given 144 hours of training; however, individual differences in learning ability are taken into account and some new employees may remain in training for longer than others.

On the training ward the instruction is carried out in actual ward situations, under the guidance of an experienced instructor who is herself a graduate of a psychiatric aide school. The student is first given theory, followed by a demonstration from the instructor. A return demonstration by the student is required. The trainee continues her "demonstration" daily until the instructor is satisfied that an acceptable standard of proficiency has been reached. Proper manual procedures are also established, and aide-patient relationship is emphasized to allay the fears of an improper approach to the mentally ill patient.

The student participates in all situations as they arise, such as receiving new admissions, caring for injuries, patient occupational and recreational activities, greeting visitors, calming acutely disturbed patients, preparing patients for a trip to the X-ray department and so on. This experience, under the guidance of the instructor, gives the new employee a sense of security; when training is complete she can be assigned to any ward; she knows what is to be done, how to do it and when it should be done.

On-the-job training also eliminates the need for individual instruction, formerly conducted on several wards, and provides a uniform and more effective program for the training of new attendants.

When finally assigned to her regular ward, the newly trained attendant is conscious of the importance of good nursing care and is capable of giving it immediately. Her ability to establish a good aide-patient relationship gives the mentally ill person a feeling of satisfaction and security.

Dr. Alfred P. Bay, superintendent of the hospital, has kindly made available several copies of the Clinical Training Ward Teaching Program, which have been placed in our Loan Library and will be sent out on two weeks loan by request. (10-37)

## Geriatric Mental Problems Usually Begin in Early Life

*M.H.S.'s abstract of a report on geriatric problems, prepared from a survey made in Michigan State Hospitals.*

THE census bureau reports that there are now 12,500,000 persons over 65 years of age in this country. By 1975, the number will increase to over 16 million.

Recently, a survey was conducted in Michigan state mental hospitals to assess accurately the nursing and psychiatric care problems which are presented by elderly patients. Patients surveyed were resident in Kalamazoo, Pontiac, Traverse City, Ypsilanti, and Newberry State Hospitals.

Although the aging general population increased over 80 per cent in the last 20 years, hospital admissions in this state increased 169 per cent during the same period.

The survey included diagnostic classifications, composition of the group, length of hospital residence, and the behavior and nursing problems of these patients.

### Two Primarily Senile Diagnoses

The survey reports that there are only two psychiatric diagnoses due primarily to the process of aging. The first consists of senile psychoses. These patients have mental symptoms due to actual degeneration or "wearing out" of the brain tissue. The symptoms may vary considerably, but marked memory disturbances are characteristic. Often such patients remember events of years ago correctly, but cannot recall their current experiences. There are all degrees of severity from simple forgetfulness to a complete lack of understanding of what is going on about them. At times these patients make a good institutional adjustment but do poorly in their own homes. They may hear imaginary voices or see "visions." They may be combative. In even rather mild cases, sexual activity may take erratic forms, sometimes leading to aggressive acts towards children. Almost any other symptoms of mental illness may occur.

The second major diagnosis due primarily to aging is psychosis with cerebral arteriosclerosis. This is a mental illness due to hardening of the arteries of the brain. Symptoms are similar to senile psychoses.

The mental disorders ordinarily associated with younger patients are also well represented in patients 65 years of age or over.

### Illness Beginning in Early Life

The report states that although 26.8 per cent of the patients resident in state hospitals are 65 years of age or older, only ten per cent were admitted for conditions primarily due to aging. Approximately 60 per cent have been admitted for other reasons.

Dementia praecox, manic-depressive psychosis, and paranoid conditions are the three most frequent diagnoses not considered related to the aging process. These groups, according to the report, represent the greater number of elderly patients in state hospitals.

Schizophrenia or dementia praecox characteristically begins in adolescence or early adult life, and its cause is unknown. Manic-depressive psychotics show marked swings of mood, and may be excessively happy, over-active and over-talkative, or else sad, under-active, speaking very little.

A comparison of the cost of the care required by patients admitted primarily for illness due to aging and those previously admitted who have grown old in the hospital is more striking if we calculate the number of patient days of hospitalization involved for each group.

The Michigan survey found that 60 per

cent of the whole group 65 years of age or over have been in the hospital for over 5 years, while 29.4 per cent have been in residence over 20 years.

The senile and cerebral arteriosclerotic residents had spent an aggregate of 1,858,032 days in the hospitals, while those 65 or over otherwise diagnosed had a total of 18,000,340 patient days of hospitalization. The cost for the later is nearly 10 per cent higher.

### Behavior Shows Need for Care

To determine the kind of nursing and psychiatric care the aging group require, a detailed case-by-case study was made of 98.6 per cent of the patients 65 years of age or over in the five hospitals. This involved some 47,404 separate entries on current characteristics alone.

In practically every individual case, the opinion of more than one person skilled in the medical or nursing management of psychiatric cases was used. Hospital records were not consulted and such records as were reviewed were studied after the survey was completed. Thus, any "slanting" of existing records was avoided.

In the entire group of patients of 65 years of age and over, there was only one case of seemingly unjustified commitment, but this patient who was able to make a good hospital adjustment and was happy there, was difficult to manage outside and because of arthritis and age was unable to care for herself.

Not one patient could be released outright to take care of himself. Two male prospects seemed at first to come under such a category. They had shown no abnormal behavior in the hospital and seemed well-adjusted mentally on examination. However, the records showed that in one case the patient had murdered his son, and in the other, there was a history of three homicidal sexual attacks on little girls.

The survey of individual patient behavior resulted in the classifying of 112 patients, or 3.3 per cent of the cases surveyed, as potential releases on the basis of the behavior currently demonstrated in the hospital. However, none of this group could be released outright to take care of themselves. Many of these patients who got along quite well in the hospital became exceedingly disagreeable to deal with either on family care or in their own homes.

A charge attendant on a reasonably quiet ward said, "From a general viewpoint, when looking or speaking to some of the elderly ladies, you wonder why they are in a hospital. But after working with and observing these ladies, one can see why they are hospitalized."

The survey, primarily concerned with the geriatric problems, clearly indicated the necessity for intensive treatment for young acute patients who might be saved many costly years of hospitalization.

### SMOKERS CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIALIZATION

THE SPORTS DEPT. of the Marion (Ind.) VA Hospital stages "smokers" for patients, which feature professional boxing exhibitions, weight lifters, and gymnastic teams, as well as sports films. Several B'Nai B'rith Lodges and the Indiana State Elks Association have been active in sponsoring the programs and providing refreshments. (17-43)

## COMMENTARY

## Books Pamphlets Reports Periodicals

(Commentary's chief purpose is to call the attention of MHS subscribers to articles, reports, pamphlets, books, or other documents that have been published elsewhere and are of particular interest to mental hospitals. When MHS has copies or reprints on hand for distribution or loan, this fact is noted in the column. For copies of other material, please write directly to the publisher.)

The *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol. 108, No. 5, Nov., 1951, has issued a reprint of a paper by Dorothy E. Clark, R.N., former nursing consultant of APA, on "The Role of the Director of Nursing—Psychiatric."

Dr. Hilding A. Bengt, Commissioner of Mental Health for Pennsylvania, leads the January issue of the state's *Mental Health Bulletin* with his paper "Rehabilitation Counselor in the Field of Mental Health." In the same issue see also "Psychodynamic Aspects of Rehabilitation" by Dr. R. F. Downey, Director, Bureau of Mental Health of Pennsylvania's Department of Welfare.

Hannah S. Davis, Psychologist at Lynchburg (Va.) State Colony, tells the aide how he may best cooperate with the psychology department of a school for the retarded, in the January 1952 issue of *"The Psychiatric Aide."*

The role of the psychiatric social worker in group therapy is discussed by Hazel Browne Madry, Chief Psychiatric Social Worker, at the Governor Bacon Health Center, in the August issue of the *Delaware State Medical Journal*. Miss Madry says there is close liaison between the social worker and the psychiatrist even before the patient's admission and this continues throughout therapy. The conferences often include the psychologist. The most important tool of the group therapist, she declares, is her own personality.

*The Magazine of Building* (published by Time, Inc.) features, in its November issue, floor plans and photos of the scale model of the proposed Psychiatric Institute in Philadelphia, Pa.

"The Importance of Interest in Occupational Therapy" is discussed by Dr. William Rush Dunton, Jr., in the December *Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation* (now entitled *The American Journal of Physical Medicine*.) Dr. Dunton urges the use of medically prescribed O.T. activities, and says, "Occupational therapy will be far more beneficial when we arouse the patient's interest in the form prescribed."

The October issue of *Hospital Management* carries an article entitled, "Dietitian in a Small Hospital," which presents the case for hiring a trained dietitian to supervise the kitchen activities in a small hospital.

The January issue of the same magazine is devoted to mental hospitals. The articles include the views of several state governors on ideal and proposed objectives in achieving competent care for mental patients; surveys of state and private institutions; legal aspects; construction, dietetics, and other phases of institutional psychiatric care.

A special cart for motion picture equipment is described in the November issue of *The Modern Hospital*. The cart affords easier transportation, provides safe storage space for the equipment, reduces damage, and serves as a stand for the projector. The carpenter at Springfield (Mass.) Hospital made the cart in two days at a cost less than \$50. The hospital feels that the expense is more than offset by the advantages of the cart and the saving in repair costs.

Patton (Calif.) State Hospital's new type of architecture—the "spoked wheel" or "star" plan—is described in December's *Institutions*.

"Job Training for Hospital Housekeeping Employees" takes up slightly over three pages of the October issue of *"The Welfare Reporter"* published by the New Jersey State Department of Institutions and Agencies.

The December issue of the same publication tells how the \$25 million bond issue to improve state mental hospitals and other institutions was used.

Also appearing in that issue is an account of how Boston Psychopathic Hospital, a small unit of 120 beds, draws upon specialist resources and how it permits a degree of self-government among patients.

A table showing how psychological needs of a patient can be met in occupational therapy by the type of activity encouraged and the attitude of the therapist illustrates "Activity Therapy of Psychiatric Patients—An Operational Formulation." The article appears in the November issue of the *V.A. Information Bulletin of the Psychiatry and Neurology Division*.

Hospital laundry departments may be interested in the labor-saving device detailed on page 24 of the same *V.A. Bulletin* (No. IB 10-17). A disposable gauze pad, used somewhat like a draw sheet, is used to cut down on linen soiling by bed patients who cannot control bowel movements.

Available on loan from MHS office—a reprint from the British *Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health & Public Laboratory Service*. Title—"A Half-Way House for the Aged Sick: An Experiment in Social Medicine." Author: Trevor H. Howell, M.R.C.P. Ed. Physician, Geriatric Unit, St. John's Hospital, Battersea, London—deals with the organization of dormitory accommodation under supervision for the "frail ambulant," thus clearing badly needed hospital beds.

## VOLUNTEERS

### GRAY LADIES WORK WITH PSYCHOSURGERY PATIENTS

AT LOGANSPOUT (IND.) State Hospital the intensive re-orientation care essential to patients convalescing from psychosurgery is being tendered by Gray Ladies. Dr. John A. Larson, hospital superintendent, selects several of the volunteers for special training. Under his direction they study the patient's history and course of treatment before surgery.

While the patient is convalescing the Gray Ladies visit him and endeavor to gain his attention and confidence. Later, they read to him, encourage him to read and talk, and help him recall simple hand skills, such as coloring, painting, and clay modeling. As the re-education progresses they play games with him and encourage his participation in musical therapy activities.

For many months the Gray Ladies are the patient's main contact with reality, and their task requires infinite patience and tact. Logansport believes that it is the only hospital in the United States which is using Gray Ladies for this particular work.

(11-25)

### People and Places . . . .

DR. MAX A. BAHR retires on March 1 after serving as Superintendent of Central State Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind., since 1923. . . DR. ARMIN H. WOLFF has resigned as Superintendent of the East Moline (Ill.) State Hospital to resume work in clinical psychiatry at the Arizona State Hospital in Phoenix. He is replaced by DR. D. A. MANELLI, formerly Assistant Superintendent of the Manteno (Ill.) State Hospital.

... DR. RALPH GLADEN, Superintendent of Modesto (Calif.) State Hospital since its inception in 1946, has resigned to enter private practice. Modesto's new head is DR. DAVID B. WILLIAMS, who held a similar post at Mendocino (Calif.) State Hospital for the past four years. . . The Institute of Living, Hartford, Conn., announces the appointment of a new Business Manager, MR. CLARKSON HILL. . . DR. JAMES S. SCARBOROUGH recently assumed duties as Superintendent of the San Antonio (Tex.) State Hospital. . . The Pinel Foundation Hospital, Seattle, Wash., has a new Assistant Medical Director, DR. J. BROOKS DUGAN, and on March 1, Dr. I. Arthur Marshall becomes Medical Director. Both were previously associated with Winter V.A. Hospital in Topeka, Kans. . . MR. RODNEY W. HEMSWORTH is the new administrator of Norways Foundation Hospital (formerly Norways Sanatorium) in Indianapolis, Ind. . . DR. JACOB EAST took over on January 1 as Superintendent of Spencer (W. Va.) State Hospital. Dr. East's former position as Clinical Director of Eastern State Hospital, Williamsburg, Va., has been assumed by DR. ELEANOR BEAMER-MAXWELL, who previously served as chief of the Women's Division at Eastern. . . DR. WINFRED OVERHOLSER, Superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D. C., was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor "for services rendered to the progress of medical science in the field of psychiatry and outstanding contribution to international scientific cooperation."